



**Town of Southern Shores
Council Meeting
November 18, 2014**

The Town of Southern Shores Council met in the Pitts Center located at 5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2014

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Tom Bennett, Mayor Pro Tem Jodi Hess, Council Members David Sanders, Larry Lawhon and Leo Holland.

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Peter Rascoe and Town Clerk Sheila Kane.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and held a Moment of Silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Holland moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sanders. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT-

Mayor Bennett called for public comment, and the following citizens offered comment:

Jack Shea, Southern Shores Resident, Dare County Commissioner, and RPO Board member
Andrew Darling, Southern Shores Resident
Tina Uperti, Southern Shores Resident
Robin Morgan, Southern Shores Resident
Ann Sjoerdsma, Southern Shores Resident
Joe Van Gieson, Southern Shores Resident
Fred Newberry, Southern Shores Resident
David Shrader, Southern Shores Resident

[Clerk's Special Transcription: Dare County Commissioner Jack Shea commented he has not spoken before due to the recent election but he would like to speak now in reference to the Town of Southern Shores' proposed portion of the Dare County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) (which is a component of the NC Department of Transportation's long-range planning system). Commissioner Shea stated he was appalled by the likely devastation that would occur

along Dogwood Trail if any path is ever constructed as proposed in the CTP as a future possibility - which he considers little to gain and much destruction. He stated he is a member of the Dare County Board of Commissioners and as a Board Member, this CTP plan will come up before that Board. He also commented to the Council that as a County Commissioner he will vote against the Town of Southern Shore's portion of the plan if the Council does approve the plan. Also, he stated as a voting member of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Albemarle Regional Planning Organization (RPO), when the CTP comes up to that Board for endorsement, he will also vote against it there. He stated the plan will have few results for the citizens of Southern Shores. He urged Council to reconsider and vote against the CTP.]

Hearing no others the Mayor closed Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items

OLD BUSINESS

Facilitator's report on October 2, 2014 public forum- seasonal vehicular traffic on public streets of the Town of Southern Shores.

Madeleine Henley of Walking Stick Associates presented her report from the October 2, 2014 Special Meeting at Kitty Hawk Elementary School for the purpose of facilitating a public forum to receive public comments, ideas, and concerns on any possible solutions to increased seasonal vehicular traffic on any public street of the Town of Southern Shores.

Mrs. Henley provided the compiled results of ideas developed at the meeting, asked Council if they had any additional tactics or strategies. Council then proposed specific actions that they would attempt to complete within two timeframes – the December 2014 Council meeting and the January 2015 Council meeting. The report was not an answer to the traffic issue but rather an organized approach to carry out some of the enforceable actions to help alleviate the situation. The following are the action items derived from the meeting per the facilitator:

- At the January 2015 Council Meeting the Mayor will report on coalition building effort: He will continue working with the Kitty Hawk and Duck Mayors to come to agreements about the steps that can be taken to help alleviate the traffic problems experienced by Southern Shores.
- At the December 2014 Council Meeting the Manager will clarify and confirm the position of the DOT regarding speed limits, flex travel lanes and turning restrictions conclude discussions with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the staggered check-ins initiative
- Develop fiscal notes on the various iterations of restricting road access
- Additionally, the Council instructs that the topic of the deteriorating signs be placed on a future council agenda.

[Clerk's Note: A copy of the TOSS Traffic Meeting Facilitator's Final Report and TOSS Follow-Up Meeting Report are hereby attached as Exhibit A]

Dare County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Resolution 2014-11-02

Mayor Bennett read a portion from the current Town of Southern Shores Land Use Plan and Council held a lengthy discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Hess stated that the CTP was just a vision for the future. Mayor Bennett stated there is no funding in place to implement such a plan yet, and without the continued and further comments and cooperation of Town citizens, no funding would be sought to implement such a plan, including to fund any actual dimensional design of any path.

He did note however, that without an adopted Plan, there would be no possibility of future funding from NCDOT for any design.

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to approve the CTP as the maps pertain to Southern Shores subject to future design facilities involving public input. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sanders. The motion passed (3-2) with Council Member Lawhon, Sanders and Mayor Pro Tem Hess voting aye, and Mayor Bennett and Council Member Holland voting nay.

[Clerk's Note: A copy of Resolution 2014-11-02 is hereby attached as Exhibit B]

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER ITEMS

Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager addressed several issues:

- The most recent plans for the Tall Pine Bridge replacement are at Town Hall and are available for Council and citizens to view. Work should begin in October 2015 and a six (6) to nine (9) month completion period is expected.
- The beach stabilization project is in progress for 2015.
- The capital improvement of Pintail Court is nearing completion and awaiting paving.
- NCDOT will be conducting a traffic meeting at Jarvisburg School in Currituck in December. We are just waiting on a confirmed date.
- In response to a public comment earlier, the Town Bid and Purchasing Policy was revised in 2013 and again in April 2014. Both the Auditor and Town Attorney were involved in each revision and all transactions have been in compliance with the adopted Policy.
- All meeting agendas can be found on the Town's website.
- The 2015 Council Meeting schedule for all meetings will be on the December 2nd agenda.

Mayor's comments:

Council Members' comments:

Council Member Sanders stated he would like staff to contact the Forestry Service to tell us exactly what we have here in Southern Shores. He also stated that Council takes the Code of Ethics very serious and the Code of Ethics can be found on the Town's website.

ADJOURN

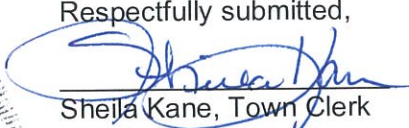
MOTION: Council Member Holland moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lawhon. The motion passed unanimously. The time was 12:36 p.m.

ATTEST:


Thomas G Bennett, Mayor



Respectfully submitted,


Sheila Kane, Town Clerk

FACILITATOR'S REPORT

Town of Southern Shores

Introduction

This document is intended as an internal report to the Town for use as a reference for the staff and Town Council. It is meant to be read alongside the accompanying power point deck. The report provides the facilitators understanding of the results of an October 2, 2014 Public Input meeting, and subsequent Council discussion held during the November 18, 2014 Council meeting. Original documents in the form of easel pad sheets were retained by the facilitator.

The Public Input meeting was designed to allow the Council to participate in a public brainstorming around the problems created by extreme summertime traffic in and through the Town of Southern Shores. The subsequent discussion with the Council was facilitated with the goal of having concrete steps to take to attempt traffic solutions. Both of these meetings had the additional goal of promoting a public discussion of the parameters of the town's authority in this matter.

Description of the problem

Throughout the summer, but most particularly during the summer weekends, thousands of vehicles enter into the town via the Wright Memorial Bridge (Route 158). Most of these cars are destined for parts north of Southern Shores. Route 12 is the only major road that traverses north from Southern Shores, from its intersection with 158, the through Duck and into Currituck County.

The traffic traveling from Route 158 to Route 12 causes problems. Because there is a bottleneck in Duck, the Route 12 traffic backs up to a near standstill. The Route 158/12 intersection regularly jams, bringing the slow moving traffic to a full stop. Residents have problems getting to work, getting home and getting around generally.

Traditionally, the residents have gotten around the traffic problems by using the residential neighborhood roads that radiate north of Route 158. In essence, they cut through the neighborhoods. Recently, the summer traffic has relied on this tactic as well, resulting in those neighborhoods facing the same traffic patterns and problems as described above on Route 12.

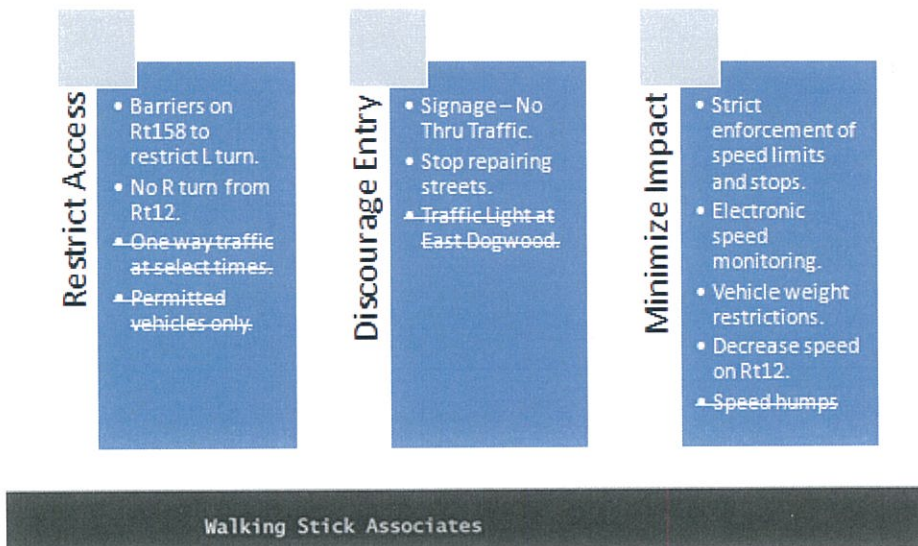
The Public Input Meeting, October 2, 2014

Roughly 130 residents attended the public input meeting. I gave all attendees the opportunity to present their ideas for solving or minimizing the traffic problems. I added those ideas to a list I had previously generated based on input provided to me by the Mayor and Manager (citizen emails to town officials, citizen crafted letters to the editor and citizen social media posts). Upon completion of the brainstorming session, I facilitated a public discussion about each proposal. The attendees debated whether an idea was feasible or not; would it help solve the problems; would it create any new problems. As they worked through each one, the group added details and parameters to some ideas

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while others they abandoned altogether. The results as follows, and are also shown on slide 3 and 4 of the accompanying power point deck. The abandoned ideas are included and shown as crossed out.

Public Input



Public Input

- Other items:
 - Multi Use Trail
 - Try/test different things
 - 3rd lane flex travel
 - Box the intersection
 - Increase police presence
 - Form a coalition
 - More data to citizens

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Council Discussion, November 18, 2014

The discussion at the Council meeting centered on the list of possible actions that had been developed at the public input meeting, with an eye toward committing to concrete achievable actions. I reviewed the list that had been created with the Council and invited them to add any new information. I also invited the attendant citizens to add any new ideas they may have come upon since the public input meeting. The new items are shown below and also on slide 5 of the power point deck.

Public Input, addendum 11/18

- Box additional intersections
- Expand the turn restrictions
- Tell MapQuest it's a school zone
- Reduce speed limits
- Staggered check ins
- Declare as a limited private road
- Declare as an expanded private road
- Give up the Powell Bill \$ so we can restrict access
- Duck Plan
- Upcoming DOT meeting

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The Council engaged in a full discussion of the relative merits of all the proposals and the potential for success inherent in each one. We took a stab at defining what success would look like, which exercise uncovered the fact that each of the Councilors were using the same yard stick to measure success – Safety. They want to be confident that the citizens can get around their town and neighborhoods safely and that emergency vehicles can get anywhere they need to, whenever they need to. Finally, the Council detailed specific actions that they would complete within two timeframes – the December 2014 Council meeting and the January 2015 Council meeting. Those actions are shown below and on slide 6 of the accompanying power point deck.

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Action Items

- At the January 2015 Council Meeting the Mayor will report on coalition building effort:
 - continue working with the Kitty Hawk and Duck Mayors to come to agreements about the steps that Kitty Hawk can take that will alleviate the problems experienced by Southern Shores.
- At the December 2014 Council Meeting the Manager will
 - Clarify and confirm the position of the DOT regarding speed limits, flex travel lanes and turning restrictions
 - Conclude discussions with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the staggered check-ins initiative
 - Develop fiscal notes on the various iterations of restricting road access
- Additionally, the Council instructs that the topic of the deteriorating signs be placed on a future council agenda.

Walking Stick Associates

Conclusion

The Town leadership takes the traffic problem very seriously, but has no authority to take meaningful actions. Their strength lies rather at influencing the opinions and behaviors of other players. And they have played their hand well. By holding this very well advertised public input hearing, and by keeping this issue alive through additional discussions, the Town may well have established the topic as a problem worth solving. Their success is evidenced by this new event: The DOT and Currituck County have now announced a public hearing on the topic, to be held in mid-December.

It has been my pleasure working with you on this issue.

Madeleine Henley
Walking Stick Associates
December 4, 2014

Walking Stick Associates

Town of Southern Shores Council Follow-up Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 2014 9:00 A.M.

Walking Stick Associates

Town of Southern Shores
Council Meeting- November 18, 2014
8 of 14

AGENDA

- Alignment
 - define today's objectives
 - review of public input meeting (slides)
 - review any new information
- Parameters
 - define success
 - outline limits
- Choose outcomes
- Create SMART action plan
 - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time Bound

Public Input

Restrict Access

- Barriers on Rt158 to restrict L turn.
- No R turn from Rt12.
- ~~One way traffic at select times.~~
- ~~Permitted vehicles only.~~

Discourage Entry

- Signage – No Thru Traffic.
- Stop repairing streets.
- ~~Traffic Light at East Dogwood.~~

Minimize Impact

- Strict enforcement of speed limits and stops.
- Electronic speed monitoring.
- Vehicle weight restrictions.
- Decrease speed on Rt12.
- ~~Speed humps~~

Public Input

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Public Input, addendum 11/18

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Town of Southern Shores

5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949

Phone 252-261-2394 / Fax 252-255-0876

www.southernshores-nc.gov

Resolution 2014-11-02

**Resolution Adopting the
Town of Southern Shores Portion of
The Dare County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
[NCGS 136-66.2]**

WHEREAS, the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization, and the Transportation Planning Branch, North Carolina Department of Transportation, have actively worked to develop a Comprehensive Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Department of Transportation are directed by North Carolina General Statute 136-66.2 to reach agreement for a transportation system that will serve present and anticipated volumes of traffic in the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the proper movement of traffic within and through the Town is a highly desirable element of the comprehensive plan for the orderly growth and development of the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council to approve the Southern Shores portion of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan as the maps pertain to Southern Shores only, subject to future designs of facilities involving public input;

WHEREAS, after full study of the plan and providing an opportunity for public comments, the Southern Shores Town Council feels it to be in the best interests of the Town to adopt a plan pursuant to General Statutes 136-66.2;

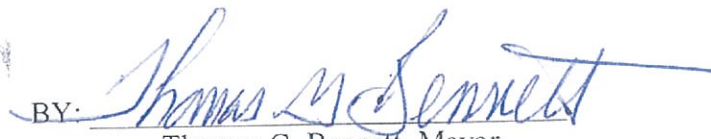
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern Shores Town Council hereby adopts the Southern Shores portion of the Dare County Comprehensive Transportation Plan dated October 30, 2014, that is within its planning jurisdiction. This plan should be approved and adopted as a guide in the development of the transportation system in the Town of Southern Shores and the same is hereby recommended to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for its subsequent adoption.

This 18th day of November, 2014

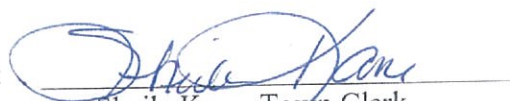
Southern Shores Town Council



BY:


Thomas G. Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheila Kane, Town Clerk